

LESSON XLVIII.

Spell and define—

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| 1. SUR'NAMED, having a name added to the original name. | 7. CHIV'AL-RY, a military order called knights. |
| 3. PROPH'E-CY, prediction, foretelling. | 8. MAR'TIAL, relating to war. |
| 4. RE-BUFFS', defeats, repulses. | 11. MAIN-TAIN', assert, defend. |
| Cos'TUME, dress. | 12. FRIV'O-LOUS, trifling, of little importance. |

THE MAID OF ORLEANS.

1. Joan of Arc, surnamed the Maid of Orleans, from her heroic defence of that city, was born about the year 1411, in the little hamlet of Domremy, near the river Meuse, in France, where her house is still preserved as a national relic. Her parents were humble and honest peasants.

2. At that time the kingdom of France was nothing more than a province conquered by the English, who treated the inhabitants with great severity. The young and unfortunate King of France, Charles the Seventh, beheld, day by day, his possessions taken from him, and his people persecuted.

3. The calamitous state of the nation was a subject of great concern, even in the little obscure village where Joan dwelt; and in her prayers she never forgot France and its rightful monarch. It chanced that a prophecy was current that a virgin should rid France of its enemies; and this prophecy seems to have been realized by its effect upon the mind of Joan.

4. Such was her enthusiasm, such her perseverance, that, after many difficulties and rebuffs, she gained access to Charles the Seventh, and induced him to give her the rank of a military commander, and allow her to go to raise the siege of Orleans. She assumed a military costume, and, on the third of May, 1429, actually entered the besieged city